Committee appointed by the hon. Chairman to look into the MPs Local Area Developmnet Scheme and the problems faced by the Members in coordinating with the Ministry of Programme Implementation. I am the Chairman of it. If you have any problem, do not ask that on the floor of the House. You can come to the Committee.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

I. Members of Parliament local area Development Scheme

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): Madam, the Members of Parliament belonging to almost all political parties have for some time been demanding that the amount allocated under the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme be increased. As we are all aware, when the Scheme was initiated in 1993, each Member of Parliament had a choice to suggest works to the tune of Rs. 1 crore as per the guidelines.

It has been increasingly perceived that though the efficacy of the Scheme is not in doubt, in view of the increasing demands made on the Members of Parliament for development of their areas.....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: As nobody is opposing it, you can lay it on the Table. Please lay it on the Table of the House.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Madam, with your permission, I beg to lay a copy of the Statement on the Table of the House.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal): From which period will it be effective?

SHRI RAM NAIK: It will be effective during 1998-99, this year. *(interruptions)*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No questions. *(interruptions)* No clarifications. If I allow you, then I will have to allow others also. there are no exceptions in this House. *(interruptions)*

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU (West Bengal): Madam, I will just take one minute. ...*(interruptions)*... I am not saying anything about the recommendation of the Committee. My point is since our resouces are finite—I think the Finance Minister will allow me to say that our resources are finite. Ultimately, these have implications for the resource allocation to the States and for the process of decentralisation *per se.*

I would like to know whether the states have been consulted before announcing this. I would also like to know whether it will have any implications for the allocation to the States; and whether it is consistent with our general commitment to the process of decentralisation enshrined in the 73rd or 74th Amendment to the Constitution. ...*(interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: this is not a small question. ...*(interruptions)*...

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: I think this is a very vital question. ...*(interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will not allow any comment on that. ...*(interruptions)*... No, no. ...*(interruptions)*... I am not allowing...*(interruptions)*... I am sorry ...*(interruptions)*... I will not allow any deviation. ...*(interruptions)*... Now, Mr. Barnala. ...*(interruptions)*... Mr. Bhandaryji, don't take advantage. ...*(interruptions)*... I know you did; I saw it. Now, Mr. Barnala.

श्री रामदेव भंडारी: मैडम्, आधा मिनट, मैं एक सुझाव देना चाहता हूं।

उपसभापति: आपको सुझाव देना है तो आप कमेटी को दे दीजिए।

श्री रामदेव भंडारी: आपको भी दे दूंगा।...(व्यवधान)...